

Committee finds little need for A&M day care services

By Susan B. Erb
Staff Writer

Texas A&M University does not provide campus child care for faculty, staff and students. The results of a child care needs-assessment committee indicate that University day care is not likely to become a reality at A&M in the future, but

that communications between parents and providers may be strengthened.

The Child Care Facility Study Committee, organized at the end of March at the request of Chancellor Perry Adkisson, conducted a two-month study on child care services available in the Bryan-College Station area and assessed child care needs of University System staff and students.

Committee chairman Patricia Chapman, assistant vice chancellor of budgets and human resources for the System, said based on excess facility capacity, general acceptance of costs and no major dissatisfaction with services offered by local child care facilities, the committee does not see a need to offer campus child care.

"We found that at this point in time there doesn't appear to be a mandate for the TAMU System to provide child care," Chapman said.

Chapman said Adkisson has endorsed the recommendations of the committee, including the formation of a Child Care Provider Council to serve as a conduit for communications between parents and child care providers.

"This is just a means by which the chancellor feels like he can assure that the needs of the employees of the TAMU components headquartered in College Station are being met," Chapman said.

In a memo to chief executive officers

of the System, Adkisson said the purpose of the council will be to provide a means by which concerns can be expressed and resolved, open communications can take place and through which educational programs can be offered to both parents and care providers.

Adkisson asked Vicki Bienski, his administrative assistant, to establish the council. Bienski said the System, the University and the local child care community will be represented in the council.

"We have invited all of the System parts that are located on campus to participate," Bienski said. "And the University has been asked to provide the names of an undergraduate student and a graduate student as well as a faculty and staff representative. Some people from the local child care community will also be on the council."

Rachel Kennedy, founder of Students with Children, a Texas A&M group organized to give support to students who are raising a family while going to school, said she believes the formation of the council is a positive move, but publicizing its services could be difficult.

"I think it's a step in the right direction," Kennedy said. "The problem is to get the staff and student body to know they are there and to use them."

Travis gives local patrons outstanding performance

By Shane Hall
Staff Writer

Randy Travis showed why he has received so much praise from the country music world by giving an outstanding performance Friday night at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

The nearly sold-out crowd greeted Travis with a chorus of whoops and cheers as he walked onto the stage and began his show.

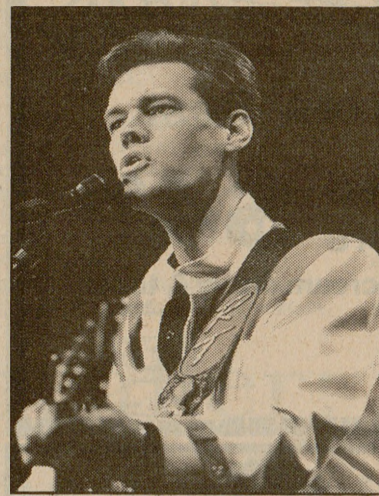
Enthusiasm remained high as the award-winning country singer performed many of the hits that have made him a star.

Backed by a sextet of musicians, Travis sang such country hits as "Digging Up Bones," "On the Other Hand" and "Forever and Ever, Amen."

The latter of the three was especially well-received, as dozens of fans, most of them young women, swarmed at the foot of the stage, many of them bearing cameras and looking for a good shot.

Others sought autographs and held out items ranging from pictures to cowboy boots in hopes of getting them signed.

Adoration from the females in the crowd continued throughout the show. During one song, a voice from somewhere in the Coliseum yelled, "I love you, Randy."



Randy Travis

Travis alone as he performed the ballad solo, with his guitar as the only musical accompaniment. It made for an emotional and remarkable performance.

After telling his audience that he was raised listening to country singers such as Hank Williams Sr., Travis paid homage to his roots with a medley of songs by the legendary singer beginning with the classic "Your Cheatin' Heart."

With that medley, Travis showed why he is considered one of the leaders in the trend toward traditional country music. The medley, and the remainder of the show, received a deafening enthusiastic response from the audience.

The audience also enjoyed Gene Watson, the show's opening act. Watson has been on the national country music scene since the mid-1970s, but has never achieved Travis' level of stardom. However, Watson has had his share of hits and he performed them Friday night, including "Love in the Hot Afternoon" and "Paper Roses."

Watson, a Houston native, also performed some new material that was well-received by the audience. Especially impressive were "Dreams of a Dreamer Gone Blind" and "Somewhere Over You."

Medical school gets renamed at ceremony

By Holly Becka
Staff Writer

The Texas A&M Medical Sciences Building officially was renamed for Dr. H. Reynolds, vice chairman of the Board of Regents, during a ceremony at the building Saturday.

The building was renamed after Reynolds in recognition of the role he played in founding the medical school — Texas' newest — and for his support of the University's medical program during his Regent terms.

"I am very proud of this school and the students who have been here and their contributions," he said. "Sue (his wife) and I thank you all. We're thrilled. We really appreciate this great honor."

In addition to his position on the Board, Reynolds also is a member of the Executive Committee, the Committee for Academic Campuses and the Corps Enhancement Committee.

Reynolds, a native of Tyler, served in World War II and the Korean War as an officer in the Marine Corps. He graduated first in his class at Baylor Law School in 1947 and is a partner in the Houston law firm Reynolds, Cunningham, Peterson and Cordell.

He also is active as chairman of the board of visitors for Texas Southern University School of Law and chairman of the Texas State Bar Committee for the Federal Judiciary.

David G. Eller, chairman of the Board, thanked Reynolds for all he has done for Texas A&M and for allowing his name to be put on the building. He also announced that Reynolds' friends and colleagues are commissioning an oil portrait of him to be placed in the building.

University President Dr. William H. Mobley, Dr. Richard A. DeVaul, dean of the College of Medicine, and other members of the Board also attended the ceremony.

Hormones may improve poultry

By Doug Evans
Reporter

Injecting chicken embryos with growth hormones may breed larger and healthier chickens, Dr. Pam Hargis, A&M associate professor of poultry science, said.

Hargis said experiments by the poultry science department of Texas A&M's Agricultural Extension Service show great promise.

"We have seen an increase in body weight from 50 to 100 grams by the time chickens reach market age," Hargis said. "Skeletal growth also is affected by the hormone injections."

Dr. Sam Pardue, one of Hargis' co-researchers, said that longer leg bones have been observed in male chickens.

"What is exciting about this is that a single injection of a very small quantity of growth hormones significantly affects the physiological development," he said. "Chickens vaccinated before they hatch have a better chance of a healthy life."

Pardue said the immune system in chickens is not active when they hatch,

so the unhatched chicks must rely on maternal antibodies found in the yolk of the egg.

"There is some evidence that we can improve protection against diseases if we immunize the embryo directly," he said.

Pardue said embryo experimentation is necessary to achieve positive growth results.

"Chickens grow so rapidly that we can't significantly change their genetic composition after they hatch," he said. "Unlike cattle or swine, we must give the hormones directly to the embryo to get results."

Hargis said that growth hormones also can control the amount of fat in chickens.

According to Pardue, less fat will please consumers.

"We see some consumer resistance to excessive abdominal fat," Pardue said. "As a consumer, you pay for that fat. We now have a product that is lower in total fat."

The research is a response to growing health awareness, he said. He said they

are very much aware of the consumer's desire to have a wholesome product.

Growth hormones also provide economic advantages, he said.

"... we can improve protection against diseases if we immunize the embryo directly."

Dr. Sam Pardue

"A single injection is altering some very basic systems and processes that have the economic potential to produce a better bird," Pardue said. "We can produce birds that gain more weight on the same unit of feed. That is a cost savings."

Hargis said the purpose of the research benefits the entire poultry industry.

"We are not doing this just to exploit the bird," she said. "We are doing it to maximize their growth potential and to

understand what makes them grow."

Pardue said that consumer demand has initiated much of the research.

"This year is the first for poultry consumption to exceed beef," he said.

The majority of the research is still experimental.

"We will wait for approval from the Food and Drug Administration," Pardue said. "We don't want to produce poultry for the consumer that has any suspicion of being tainted."

The research is funded by a grant from the South Eastern Poultry and Egg Association, an organization of producers of poultry products, Pardue said. The Texas A&M Auxiliary Fund also has contributed to the project.

Hargis said that application of the research is still to come.

"We have not yet come up with anything that is going to revolutionize the poultry industry," she said. "But we have changed how fat tissue and skeletal growth develops. Now it is a matter of refining the hormones and the time of administration."

Police arrest 45 protesters of abortion

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Police arrested 45 people who blocked entrances to an abortion clinic during an anti-abortion protest organizers said was one of the largest ever staged here.

"We don't want to telegraph our punches, but we want people to know this isn't a fleeting fad," said Jack Devault, head of Life Support Services and one of the coordinators of Saturday's demonstration.

Catherine Stannard, administrator of the Reproductive Services Inc. clinic, praised the courage of some patients who were able to make it inside the clinic despite the protesters.

All those arrested outside the clinic were charged with criminal trespass, a Class B misdemeanor punishable by up to six months in jail and a fine up to \$1,000.

A103 Art and reason

When Mark and I decided to spend the weekend at his mother's house, I never imagined I would be walking into a mouse's nightmare. There were cats everywhere.

Cat plaques, cat statues, cat clocks, even a cat mat. I couldn't begin to duplicate her collection of kitty litter if I spent a year at a garage sale. Conspicuously absent, however, was a real cat. Strange, I thought, and began to fear that a weekend with cat woman could be a lot less than purr-fect.

But then she came home, and Mark introduced her. She was dressed surprisingly well—no leopard pants. In fact, you could say she was the cat's meow, but I'd rather not.

She offered me a cup of Dutch Chocolate Mint. Now that was something I could relate to. Then she brought it out in the most beautiful, distinctly unfeline china I'd ever seen. As we sipped, I found out that Mrs. Campbell has my same weakness for chocolate, loves the theater as much as I do, but, incredibly, never saw "Cats." So Mark and I are taking her next month.

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